

This Month's Speaker

Mike McLaughlin will be the featured speaker at the June 5th meeting of the AARC. Mike will be speaking about the VE exams and the proposed tower ordinance.

Amateur radio classes to begin June 9

With the cooperation of Alyeska Pipeline Co. at 1835 South Bragaw, KL7YF will begin Ham classes on Tuesday, June 9 at 6pm. The classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday nights for up to eight weeks. Contact Rick or Lil at 277-6741 to sign up and book materials.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME: You don't need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See THIS MONTH'S EVENTS for the location and time for the meeting.

VEC Eagle River Testing Discontinued from Mike McLaughlin WA7USX

We will no longer be giving the monthly tests in Eagle River beginning in June 1998 and lasting at least through August. We may start up again in September or start a regular test in Palmer or Wasilla in its place. I will let you know when a final decision is made.

VHF NETS AROUND

All of you new HAMs take note: there are lots of nets and nice folks to visit with. The Son of Sideband Net runs each Monday night at 9:00 PM local on 144.200 Mhz USB with a 6 Meter extension on 50.150 Mhz USB. On Tuesday night, the Big City Simplex Net operates on 146.520 FM at 8:30PM local. On Thursday the ARES net starts at 8:00 PM on the 147.30/90 repeater with Amateur News line followed at 9:00 PM by the PARKA net. On Sunday there are two nets at the same time. In Anchorage, the QCWA net runs at 8:00 PM on the 146.97/37 repeater (103.5 Hz PL) and in the valley the 850 No Name Net runs on the 146.85/25 repeater.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: All articles from members and interested persons are very welcomed. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or

neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Regular HAM Gatherings:

* **Tuesdays, 11:30am to 1:00pm:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward Hwy. (South of Dimond Center). Although billed as the QCWA lunch, this is open to all and is a good time of fellowship.

* **Saturdays, 7:30am:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

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Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

June 5: AARC general meeting at 7PM Carr-Gottstein Building APU Campus. Talk in on 146.94 repeater

June 3: VE Licence Exams. 6:30pm Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion

June 12: SCRC general meeting at 7PM RM 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

June 13: VE License Exams, Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2pm. Be sure to bring photocopy of your license, photo ID, and any certificates of completed elements.

440 Mhz Band Threat et al

Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, Director, NW Div., ARRL

1. Just before the Executive Committee meeting May 9th we were alerted to a serious threat to the 440 MHz band. Information provided us at the meeting indicated that this request for rulemaking by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) had a lot of support from a variety of groups having use for Private Mobile Radio Services (PMRS). We asked ARRL HQ to prepare information for us that we could pass on to our members. That information is attached below. Please note that the comment deadline is June 1st. Because it

is uncertain if the FCC is currently accepting electronic comments, it is best that you respond through the US mail (original plus 4 copies).

2. The threat from LMCC should give us additional reason to try to get our representatives in the House of Representatives to co-sponsor HR 3275, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1998. In dealing with the Congressmen, please make sure they understand the role Amateur Radio plays in providing communications during disasters. Also, that is frequent recent disaster experience that other communications system fail or become overloaded that they do not function as needed. The 440 MHz band is the second most heavily used VHF/UHF frequency and our repeaters, etc. on that band are heavily relied on for disaster communications.

RM-9267: A Threat to Amateur Radio Interests

On April 22, 1998, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) filed a petition for rulemaking with the Federal Communications Commission to have two-thirds of the 420-450 MHz band (70 cm) reallocated to the Private Mobile Radio Service. The petition is designated RM-9267, and the FCC is accepting public comment until June 1, 1998. The ARRL opposes the LMCC proposal. The 70 cm band is very popular among radio amateurs, and plays a critical role in our ability to provide emergency, public service, and public interest communications. The ARRL believes that the LMCC proposal is incompatible with continued amateur use of the band. RM-9267 is still only a proposal, and has not been acted upon by the government. We need your help in communicating our concerns to policy makers as they consider how to handle the LMCC's request.

Frequently Asked Questions About RM-9267

What is the LMCC? The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a non-profit association of organizations representing users of land mobile radio systems, providers of land mobile services, and manufacturers of land mobile radio equipment. The user community includes public safety, business, industrial, private, common carrier, and land transportation radio users. The membership of LMCC includes the following organizations:

Association of American Railroads (AAR)
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) American Automobile Association (AAA) American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) American Petroleum Institute (API) American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Association of Public Safety Communications Officials - International, Inc. (APCO) Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA) Forest Industries Telecommunications (FIT) Forestry-Conservation Communications Association (FCCA) Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc. (ITA) Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA) International

Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) International Taxicab and Livery Association (ITLA) Manufacturers Radio Frequency Advisory Committee (MRFAC) National Association of State Foresters (NASF) Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA) Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) UTC, The Telecommunications Association (UTC)

Why are they seeking more radio spectrum for land mobile radio? In response to a provision of the 1993 Omnibus Budget Act calling for regulatory parity among wireless Common Carriers and certain private wireless licensees that were providing service that was substantially similar to Common Carrier Service, the FCC developed separate definitions for Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) and Private Mobile Radio Services (PMRS). LMCC members mainly are interested in PMRS. They claim that the FCC is favoring CMRS over PMRS because CMRS licenses can be auctioned, generating substantial revenues for the Federal Treasury.

What is the actual proposal, and how would it affect Amateur Radio? Based on its own spectrum requirements analysis, LMCC claims that the future additional spectrum needs of the PMRS community are as follows: 15 MHz by the year 2000, 44 MHz (i.e., another 29 MHz) by 2004, and 125 MHz (i.e., another 81 MHz) by 2010. It proposes: Immediate needs be satisfied by a reallocation of 420-430 MHz, paired with 440-450 MHz, from Federal use to PMRS; Immediate/mid-term needs be satisfied by FCC allocation of 1390-1400, 1427-1432, and 1670-1675 MHz to PMRS, pursuant to its reallocation to the private sector from the government; Reallocate 85 MHz of the aeronautical band, 960-1215 MHz, to the PMRS by the year 2010 to satisfy longer term needs, shared with the developing DOD JTIDS/MIDS service.

At present in the United States, the Amateur Radio Service is secondary to military radiolocation (radar) in the 420-450 MHz band. Originally a primary allocation, secondary status came about during the 1950s when Cold War concerns made national security a high priority. Limited non-government, non-amateur use of the band is permitted -- but amateurs have priority over such use. LMCC misinterprets the significance of amateur secondary status and states that "Amateur applications in the 420-430/440-450 MHz should remain secondary to PMRS." LMCC also suggests the possibility that, "recognizing that amateur radio service will see a net constriction by the recommended reallocation of 420-430/440-450 MHz," 1390-1395/1427-1432 MHz might be allocated to the amateur service to offset this constriction. "Constriction" is, of course, a bit of an understatement; LMCC has offered no ideas as to how amateurs could continue to share the bands.

What should amateurs do? First, what you should NOT do: Don't complain to your Congressman about the FCC, or write a nasty letter to the FCC. The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal. By

law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it. Criticizing the FCC at this stage would be inappropriate and counterproductive.

Here is what you should do:

1. Examine the list of LMCC members. You may be a member of one or more of these organizations. If you are, write to that organization as a member and inform them that the LMCC, which has listed them as a member and supporter, has taken an action that is contrary to your interests. Don't assume that they know anything about the petition or its implications for Amateur Radio, but do make it clear that as a member, you expect them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio. A sample letter is attached.

2. Prepare a comment on RM-9267 and submit it to the FCC. At the top, it is very important that you clearly indicate the file number: RM-9267. Send an original and four copies to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554.

In your comment, explain how the loss of access to the 420-430/440-450 MHz band segments would affect you personally, and how it would affect the ability of radio amateurs in your community to provide needed public service. Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or in another band, that you do use. Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments.

3. If you are involved in amateur radio public service communications, arrange for the government and non-government agencies that you serve and ask for a written statement of their support.

4. Arrange for any Amateur Radio organizations that you belong to, to submit comments. This is especially important in the case of organizations with interests in the 420-450 MHz band.

What if, in spite of our comments, the FCC decides it likes the idea? The primary occupant of the 420-450 MHz band is the military. Before the FCC can take the next step toward reallocation, it must first obtain the agreement of the federal government. Then it would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and must solicit public comments on its proposal. In other words, nothing is going to happen overnight and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment.

It seems we hear about threats to the amateur bands all the time. How serious is this one? The threat must be regarded as very serious. The LMCC is a bona fide and respected organization. We must assume that their proposal will be taken seriously.

Where can I get a copy of the LMCC petition? The petition, with attachments, is 72 pages. We will have it available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/> as quickly as possible.

[sample letter to LMCC member organization]
American Automobile Association
1000 AAA Drive
Heathrow, FL 32746

Dear Sirs:

I have been a satisfied member of AAA-Connecticut since 1974. Recently, however, I have learned that an organization of which AAA is a member has taken a position, allegedly with the support of AAA, that is contrary to my interests.

On April 22, the Land Mobile Communications Council filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission (designated RM-9267) that seeks to reallocate the frequency bands 420-430 and 440-450 MHz for the use of the Private Mobile Radio Service. These bands are now heavily used by radio amateurs, operating in the Amateur Radio Service, for a variety of public service and public interest communications. The reallocation proposed by LMCC is incompatible with these operations.

As a licensed radio amateur for 35 years, I am dismayed by the LMCC proposal. I am even more dismayed to find that AAA, an organization I have long supported, is listed as an apparent sponsor of this proposal.

I ask you to determine whether AAA has, in fact, adopted a position in support of RM-9267, and if so, what steps can be taken to request reconsideration of this position. If AAA has not adopted a position in support of RM-9267, request a written statement to that effect.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
David Sumner

Prepared May 12, 1998, by the American Radio Relay League, Inc., as an information service to members. ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 USA

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MASS CASUALTY DRILL A DISASTER FOR HAM RADIO

by Jim Wiley, KL7CC, with input from Kent Petty, KL5T and TJ Sheffield, KL7TS (and a few others).

The recent "Mass Casualty" drill, which involved a simulated earthquake and the Anchorage communities ability to respond, severely tested Amateur radio participation, and frankly, ham radio came off with a black eye!

The following critique was developed during discussions between a few interested persons, all of whom had participated in the event. Not every person who participated

has had the opportunity to comment herein, and many persons performed well within the limits of their assignments, but overall, the performance of ham radio during this event was, to put it politely, poor.

The review of the Mass Casualty drill printed in the Anchorage Daily News on the day following the exercise gave a good overall picture of the event, and they were most generous to say that "the only problem was in communications", graciously leaving out "ham radio". That is well for us, because the performance overall of the ham radio part of this event was dismal. Most of the problems stemmed from poor operating practices, and that after all is why we have drills, to identify and correct problems, but I, personally was ashamed to be part of this disaster. This event was the first time in about 20 years that I have participated in such an event, and I blithely volunteered to assist thinking that ham radio would come out, as it usually does, "smelling like a rose". How wrong I was! There is no other word for it, WE STANK! A casual listener must have thought we all got our licenses out of a cracker-jacks box. Here are (most of) the problems I (and others) observed, in no particular order:

I started off badly. I asked at least 3 separate persons when the event was to start, and I was told "9:30 AM." OK, I thought, I will be on site at my designated location by 9:00 AM, just to show the "civilians" that ham radio operators are eager and able to assist. When I arrived, I found out that (1) The person I was supposed to coordinate with had already left to ride an "ambulance", and (2) The event apparently started at 8:30, not 9:30. So much for making a good first impression - now we all seem (to at least one person) poorly motivated.

Oh well, at least I was ready. I had my HT, a huge battery (7 amp/hr gel-cell) and a mag mount antenna, which I stuck to the top of a nearby file cabinet. I also had several charged batteries for my HT, and of course the radio permanently mounted in my car. I also had note pads, message blanks, and other detail items likely to be needed to pass message traffic.

Next, according to previously distributed information, there was supposed to be an announcement to the effect that a major earthquake had struck the Anchorage area at (I believe) 9:33 AM. No such announcement was ever made, at least not over ham radio. There was never, in fact, any kind of announcement (that I heard) that the event had in fact started. It just seemed to begin sporadically and in a disorganized fashion. Now this is probably what would happen in a REAL emergency, but since this was a drill, and since considerable public resources were being utilized to make the simulation as useful as possible, it seems to me that some announcements concerning starting, what had supposedly happened, and additional announcements such as "such and such a street is closed" or "there is a major fire here" or other similar messages (announcements) should have been forthcoming. In fact, the only message I ever heard was a simulated report from a mobile station that some street (I cannot remember which one) had been "damaged", and was

"impassable". This message was sent to net control, only to have net control inform the sender that the message was premature because the event had not "started" yet.

One of the things I learned young in my ham radio career was how to handle traffic. I learned, as did most others of my generation, by participating in HF traffic nets, which met every night, and usually passed 10 to as many as 50 pieces of real message traffic. These nets had well trained net control stations that kept tight control of the net itself, and worked to route the traffic efficiently and rapidly. I notice these days that nets seldom pass actual traffic, and most of them seem to exist for the sole purpose of facilitating contacts between "buddies". At least two, maybe more than two, of the currently operating Alaskan traffic nets seem to have little or no structure. There is no roll call, no structured "preamble" to start the net, no definitive time for all stations to be on frequency to enable proper routing of traffic, in short, no discipline. Now, it is not my place to criticize the operations of nets to which I do not belong, but it seems to me that they do not provide much in the way of leadership by example - which means that today's newcomers simply have not been exposed to the procedures that foster effective handling of messages, and for that matter, scheduling of contacts between stations.

I should note here, however, that many of the stations that I have heard participating in these nets DO show good operating practices. It is likely these stations learned their good operating practices somewhere else, however.

The two hams manning "net control" did a very good job under the circumstances, but there were several areas that could have been improved. The most obvious was the need to enforce good net discipline. They tried, oh how they tried, but most of the participants just didn't seem to get the message. An emergency net is "strictly business" - it is not a place to visit with your pals, and most emphatically is not a time to "have fun". The fun part of ham radio is for other times, not when someone's life may be depending on whether or not a critical message gets to it's destination in time. In an emergency situation, if you don't know what to do, please don't waste time by figuring things out while holding down your transmit button. If you feel you must say something to justify your participation, even if you have no traffic at the moment, please don't. And for those who do, the net control needs to be very direct in telling them to either clean up their act or get the hell off the frequency and make way for those who are being useful.

The net control stations failed to enforce the cardinal rule of net operations - insist that every station be recognized before transmitting any "traffic". In other words, no "Net control, this is KL7ABC, and I have (blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah...), over". All too often, such long "not cleared" transmissions overlap others, which wastes time, and even results in entirely missed messages when the sender "assumes" the message was received when in fact it was blocked by someone else doing exactly the same thing. Net control needs to stomp (hard) on these type of operators. Rules: (1) NEVER transmit anything other than your call

sign (Actual or "tactical", as needs dictate), unless given permission by net control. (2) ALWAYS make sure your intended recipient is listening before starting a message, and (3), ALWAYS announce to net control (and others) that you have completed your traffic and are returning the frequency to net control.

"Time, why we've got lots of time, and what I have to say is obviously more important than what anyone else has to say!" Folks, this is an EMERGENCY, we cannot wait while you pick your nose and decide what you are going to say. All too many times, there would be something like this: "KL7ABC this is net control (over)". (wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, and wait some more.) Finally, after 20 seconds or so: "net control, this is KL7ABC - - - ummm - - go ahead (over)". If you cannot respond within a second or two, you are in the wrong place - get the hell out of the way and let someone operate who can remember their name.

Oh, yes. Then we have these: "My call sign is SO classy that I must take the maximum amount of time saying it, and just to be sure everyone knows how important I am, I will repeat it a couple of times, preferably using phonetics, so that everyone within earshot gets the full effect, and will be impressed." Well, good operators are impressed all right, but not in the way you might think! Most of the truly competent operators think of saucepan covers (LIDS) when this happens. In the first place, phonetics are totally inappropriate unless the receiving station specifically asks for them. Folks, this is VHF, and FM to boot - signals are often crystal clear. Using phonetics is a complete waste of time! And clever phonetics are worse than useless - they just add to the confusion and waste even more time. And, finally, using phonetics is NOT, strictly speaking, a legal way to identify your station. The FCC issued KL7ABC, not "Kilo Lima Seven Alpha Bravo Charlie". If you look in the rules, you will find a clear statement that you are required to identify using the actual call letters, not phonetics. In fact, a station using only phonetics is not identifying at all, according to the rules. Also, saying "for ID" or "for identification" is silly, since the ONLY reason you give your call sign is for identification. Saying "for ID" is redundantly redundant. And, it makes you resemble that saucepan cover.

OK, suppose you are up to speed, in the right place, and can remember your name. It would be nice if you were there when net control calls! We had several instances (one very obvious instance) of hams being somewhere else when messages came their way. Folks, if you have to leave your post for whatever reason, let the net control station know. We really looked like fools (incompetent is the nicest thing that could be said) when a high ranking red cross official had to pass a message and his "communicator" was nowhere to be found. Come on folks, are we trying to show the city officials that we are a group of operators that can be depended on to come to their assistance, or just a bunch of CB wannabes?

And speaking of communicating - if any single word was used to describe the group as a whole, "unprepared" comes to mind. Too many of the hams were using hand helds inside vehicles or buildings with no attempt made to see if

they were "getting out" properly. Some lessons in radio theory obviously need to be passed on. Here's one: You are talking to a repeater which is in a very good location, using medium to high power (for VHF), and has an excellent antenna, which is out in the open.

You, on the other hand, are not.

Lets make a few suppositions: You are using a hand held, running perhaps 5 watts, to a "rubber duckie" antenna, and are inside a bus.

Here are the comparisons: Your signal is probably 10 dB (10 times the power) weaker than the repeater's transmitter. You are using a small antenna, which is (being generous) another 10 dB less effective than the repeater antenna. Finally, you are inside a vehicle, which is made of sheet metal. There is AT LEAST 10 more dB, more likely 20 dB, of attenuation caused by the fact that the 2-meter radio wave literally cannot fit through the windows of your vehicle or office building!! (try this simple observation: when driving in your car, AM radio stations fade out when passing under highway bridges or through tunnels, but FM signals remain strong. The reason is that the wavelength of AM signals is hundreds of meters (several hundred feet) and FM signals, by comparison have wavelengths of only about 9 feet (3 meters). The FM signals "fit through the hole", and AM signals do not.) A 2 meter ham signal uses a wavelength of about 2 meters (6 feet), and will NOT fit through the windows on a bus or your car. Some signal leaks out, of course, but it is severely attenuated. The net result of all these combined losses is that a HT signal (inside a vehicle) is at least 10⁶ times weaker than the repeater signal, and more likely 10,000 to 100,000 times weaker. No wonder so many stations could not hit the repeater, never mind communicate directly with one another.

If you are using your HT to provide emergency communications, have at your disposal some means of getting your signal out where it can do some good. Have a mag-mount antenna and 20' or so of cable. Also, you might think about a coaxial sleeve dipole (made from RG-58/U cable by folding back 19" of braid towards the connector end and letting 19" of "center conductor" stick out in the clear). A mag mount also works great in buildings - sticking it on top of a file cabinet or a group of file cabinets works wonders. Hanging a sleeve dipole out a window also works great.

"Station calling net control, I cannot hear you. Please move and try again." - So, the person with the hand held moves a few feet, and because of reflections, now has a good signal. What do they do next? Why, as soon as the net control tells them they have a good signal, they immediately walk back to where the signal was bad! Folks, if you get a report of bad signal strength, and if moving a few feet helps, for goodness sakes stay put until your message has been sent and acknowledged. Why do we even have to say these things? Visions of saucepans again.

Yes, this was a drill, and it is certainly understandable for the NCS (net control station) to ask participants to say "this is a drill" as part of each message. Many stations added the disclaimer to their traffic, but many

forgot (I was one of them). It would have been better for the NCS to announce periodically that drill messages were being handled and let it go at that. This is part of controlling the net. Of course, in a real emergency, there would be no need of such things, but even so....

There were a few stations who were obviously well prepared. They had strong signals, were quick to respond, and said what had to be said and got out of the way. In the good signal category were notably Rick, KL7YF, Susan, NL7NN, and of course net control. For those that weren't so well off, now is the time to think about making improvements.

Whatever happened to simplex? Folks, in a real emergency there is every possibility that EVERY repeater in town might be off the air! What I said about poor net discipline (and poor signals) goes doubly so when using simplex. In many cases, the net control can hear two (or more) stations that cannot hear each other. Failing to follow net control's instructions in a timely manner, including failing to obtain permission before transmitting is a sure way to really jam things up. Again, the first job of the net control is to maintain control of the net. And, the first task of the stations participating in the net is to make sure they receive permission from NCS before sending traffic. We had at least one instance of a "stuck mike" that blocked the net for several minutes. Where was the plan to shift to an alternate frequency? What would have happened if an "aftershock" had knocked the repeater down the side of the mountain?

Our civilian officials had some problems too. Disregarding the actual and simulated problems they had, it seemed all too easy for them to say "well, I cannot get through using my ham radio communicator, so I'll just use the phone". Excuse me if I missed something, but weren't the phones supposed to be totally out?

And why couldn't the officials get through on ham radio? More often than not, it was because so many operators wasted so much time with delayed responses and phonetics that they literally "burned up" the available air time, and stations had to wait so long to be recognized by the NCS that they simply gave up or the traffic was no longer pertinent.

And, some messages were delivered, but the receiving stations failed to confirm receipt and/or failed to obtain and transmit replies to the queries. A message requiring a response needs to be kept alive and the station gathering and delivering the reply MUST be certain the response was received where intended. Simply "broadcasting" the reply and hoping the original sender hears the reply just doesn't cut it.

All in all, this drill showed that we need LOTS of training before hams in Anchorage can hope to continue the tradition of helping in time of need. To this end, we are considering having combined drills (with all clubs participating) at least once a month, using our own simulated "disasters". There will be (I hope) lively discussions at all of the area clubs about having drills. If we are to impress the city officials with why we should be allowed to keep our towers and other external apparatus, then we have to give

them a reason for supporting us. Resting on past accomplishments is futile. It gives rise to the famous "what have you done for me lately?" question. Yes, Alaska hams had performed magnificently (35 years ago) during the 1964 earthquake, but that was then, this is now. Every city official who was in office then has left (many are dead) and the present occupants have no, or at least dim, memories of that event. The fire at Wasilla - Big Lake a couple of years ago was, for the most part, a good performance by ham radio, but again, what have we done lately?

Who did well, as a rule? Mostly it was those who had "done it before", or who participate in contests (such as the Alaska QSO party or Field Day), or who were trained communicators (via the military or other means). All of these people ran a tight, well prepared operation. The rest should think about that. There probably is no better preparation (short of a real emergency) than participating in contesting or DX chasing. Both are fun, and the skills learned serve well at times of need.

Bigger things: Who among us is really prepared? Not many, I think. Who has even made the most rudimentary preparations? A few. Why? Do you think that you will be able to go out and buy emergency generators, fuel to run them, coaxial cable, antenna wire, flashlight batteries, spare HT batteries, mobile antennas, mobile HF rigs, first aid supplies, tools, etcetera, when an actual emergency strikes? How do you propose to charge your HT batteries when there is no power? There is no harder question to have to answer than "Why?" Look in the front of any ARRL handbook. There is a copy of "The Amateur's Code", including some words about being prepared to serve your community in times of need. Are you prepared? If so, congratulations, you will be an asset. But, if not, why not? Emergency preparations need not be expensive - some ingenuity can go a very long way, but preparations they are, and prepare you must.

OK, by now you are thinking "man, this guy thinks he's perfect" - well not so. I am ashamed that I have let my complacency let me think that ham radio had kept the quality I remember, and ashamed that I have not participated more often, and ashamed that I have not taken the time to be sure our newcomers learn the correct, efficient, and clean operating skills needed to cope with emergencies. This will be corrected.

Note to other editors: Article Author: JimWiley, KL7CC. email: jwiley@alaska.net. Reprint permission is hereby given to all amateur radio publications, provided that credit is given to South Central Radio Club News.

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Review of the Mass Casualty drill by Doug Dickenson, KL7IKX

The Amateur's Code from the 1964 ARRL Handbook with some comments about the criticism of the HAM operations during the Mass Casualty Drill.

Lest we forget the creed of Amateur Radio. Much like the Scouts code of Honor, these simple values are the tie that binds together Amateur Radio Operators worldwide.

One: The Amateur is Gentlemanly: He (She) never knowingly uses the air for his (her) own amusement in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others. He (She) abides by the pledges given by the ARRL in his behalf to the public and the Government.

Two: The Amateur is Loyal: He (She) owes his (her) amateur radio to the American Radio Relay League, and he (she) offers it his unswerving loyalty.

Three: The Amateur is Progressive: He (She) keeps his station abreast of science. It is built well and efficiently. His (Her) operating practice is clean and regular.

Four: The Amateur is Friendly: Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance and cooperation for the broadcast listener: these are marks of the amateur spirit.

Five: The Amateur is Balanced: Radio is a hobby. He (She) never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he (she) owes to his (her) home, his (her) job, his (her) school, or his (her) community.

Six: The Amateur is Patriotic: His (Her) knowledge and his (her) station are always ready for service of his (her) country and his (her) community.

- Paul M. Segal -

Unless my eye's deceive me, there apparently are several individuals in the local Amateur radio community that are lacking in one or more of the ideals of amateur radio. If your not happy with how something is done, don't take your toys and go off to the computer and complain, why not volunteer your time and assistance to help . If your not satisfied that with how others are practicing a hobby, why not pitch in and help increase the hobby for all, why not follow the practice the often quoted words from a children's story, if you can't say anything nice, say nothing at all? I'm sure there are a number of volunteers that are beginning to wonder why they give of their time, equipment, and lose money to volunteer for events only to have someone sitting on the sidelines complain that their efforts are not appreciated.

Just for the record, the MOA emergency people indicated when contacted that the Amateur Radio support was NOT the problem they had with radio systems (as reported in the local Newspaper). The MOA radio systems had some problems, but NOT the volunteer operators on Amateur Radio frequencies.

Unless you are totally guilt free, totally blameless, never ever have made a mistake in your entire life, and you lead and live the life of a saint, it would be best I think to keep your opinions out of print, volunteer your time, equipment, and fellowship to help each other. Cutting down someone or some organization because it doesn't do what you want, or think it should do...just doesn't seem like it's in the best interests of Amateur Radio.

This is of course just my opinion, but from what I have been hearing and seeing in print lately, it's a fairly common opinion. 73 Doug KL7IKX

Amateurs who participated in the Mass Casualty Disas. Drill on April 30, 1998.

The Drill was a great success! Thank you all very much! Sixty-six of the amateurs who participated in the drill in the Anchorage area are listed below. There were also HF operators on the North Slope and in other parts of the state . Please let us know of anyone that we missed so we can compile a complete list, 73 editor

Bimji Menard, KL7NG Ken Perry, AL7GA Robert Kelly, WL7EN Tina Johnston, KC5ZLV Mike Borer, WL7CKB Frank Pratt, KL7FSE Joseph Bailey, KB5ZMD Les Brodio, WL7CQK Ken Delp, KL7FD Don Wilcox, KL0HN Earl Plumb, KL7EQX Freddie Plumb, WL7CQ Jim Wiley, KL7CC Guy Greene, KL7GHB TJ Sheffield, KL7TS Joseph Lynn, KL0GA Marcia Knutson, KL0OB Harvey Rookus, NL7DK Frank Hurlbut, KL7FH Chris Hurlbut, WL7KY Del Sandvik, NL7RT Gene Eaton, AL7HX Len Worcester, WL7IM Donald Koehler, N7MGT John Lynn, KL0CY Peter Bailey, WL7BW Dan O'Barr, WL7BD Wayne Groomer, KL7HHO John Bury, KL7QZ Lisa Whittaker, N1KDQ Dianne Hammer, NL7KN Leon Field, KB7YXG Bill Barber, KL7GM Bill Martin, KA1TIU John Murray, NL7WW Edythe Lynn, KL0EO Margie Page, KL7GLU Barbara Meyer, AL7OA Chris Meyer, KL0HZ Lillian Marvin, NL7DL Ben Walters, KL7GBC Hannelore Kelliher, NL7EA Corny Eastman, KL0FK Mel Saunders, AL7PB Jimmy Tvrdy, KL7CDG James Andariese, KL0HP Kent Petty, KL5T Susan Woods, NL7NN Brian McElroy, KL0KQ Jason Knutson, KL0MQ Hal Stickley, KL0LO Eric Rogers, KL0DW Doris Miller, WL7BC Rick Marvin, KL7YF Richard O'Connor, WL7CPG Charley Huddleston, KL0KF Nancy Richar, WL7KH Gene Mockerman, KL7GID Rick Renaud, KL0NE Bill Rose, KL0NW Gordon Nightingale, KL7GN Patricia Nightingale, WL7NH Cy Plimpton, KL7HMS Kris O'Connor, WL7ZT Alice Mockerman, WL7CAD John Lawson, NL7NC

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Feeling Old? Here's a scary thought:

- The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1980.
- They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan era.
- They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged. Black Monday 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression.
- Their lifetime has always included AIDS.
- Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums. The expression "you sound like a broken record" means nothing to them.

- They may have heard of an 8-track, but chances are they probably have never actually seen or heard one. The Compact Disc was introduced when they were 1 year old.
 - As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 32 cents.
 - They have always had an answering machine.
 - Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels.
 - They were born the year that Walkmen were introduced by Sony.
 - They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool.
 - They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.
 - They have no idea what "and my name is Charlie; they work for me" means.
 - They don't know that "867-5309" is Jenny's phone number.
 - They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.
 - They never heard the phrase "Where's the beef?"
- Do you feel old yet? Remember, the people who don't know these things will be in college this year.

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Tower Ordinance Hearing & some invitations

On 8 June, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 PM in the Assembly Hall at 3600 Denali, (Loussac Library) to consider the amendment of Title 21, The Tower and Antenna ordinance. Notice appears in the Metro section, ADN dated 18 May, page C5, lower right. The PARKA ladies will provide a table outside the meeting with free coffee and cookies, if the library will permit it.

Preceding this public meeting, there will be a discussion of this Ordinance on June 5, at the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club general meeting at the Carr-Gottstein building on the APU campus beginning at 7:00 PM.

Further discussion will continue at the QCWA sponsored picnic being held at KL7CDG's QTH near Avion and East 121st Ave. off of Huffman road. This will be POTLUCK, bring your favorite dish and also food. We'll talk about the Tower thing plus, weather permitting, play a little golf, chocket, badglove and just good QSOing. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Will be monitoring the 146.97 repeater and 147.57 simplex. The picnic is being held on Saturday, the 6th of June, starting from 11:00 AM to ????? Hamburgers, Chicken burgers and Hot-dogs, buns, coffee, tea, some pop, plates and eating tools will be furnished. Need potato salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, spud chips, pickles, onions (for the hearty), cheese, desserts and what ever goes with a picnic. There will be catsup, mustard, mayo, salt, pepper and other items to garnish the hot-dogs and hamburgers.

Would like to know how many plan on attending so we don't run out of hamburger or hot-dogs. May need another grill, if you can bring one, check with me before Saturday, I should have an fair idea how many are coming by then. Telephone: 345-3063 Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG

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VA Antenna Victory WBSITT

Virginia may soon have the most Amateur Radio friendly antenna laws in the nation. The legislature passed SB-480 and sent it to the Governor for his signature.

SB-480 gives Virginia Hams what amounts to an inalienable right to erect an antenna system. The measure directs that all areas of the state be covered under PRB-1-like preemption language directing all communities to make reasonable accomodation for Amateur Radio towers and antennas.

Areas of Virginia with population densities greater than 120 persons per square mile based on the 1990 Census cannot regulate antenna structures to less than 75 feet. Areas under 120 persons per square miles cannot regulate antenna structures to less than 200 feet. No area can regulate the number of support structures, meaning amateurs can put up multiple antennas.

As to restrictions? There is only one that is of any consequence. It says that reasonable and customary engineering standards for antenna erection must be followed in all locations. But that in itself is also a positive step because it makes sound engineering a state mandate and takes away the benefit of localities having final say on engineering and structure erection.

In passing the measure, Virginia Hams defeated two of the most highly influential anti-antenna and pro local government lobbies in the state.

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FCC Proposes New Rules, or, Rules are Made to be changed ARRL Letter

In a sweeping Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC has suggested several rules changes that could affect Amateur Radio, including replacement of the venerable FCC Form 610. NPRM Docket WT 98-20, "To Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services," seeks comments on proposals to replace Form 610 with FCC Form 605; to permit automatic reciprocal licensing of foreign hams wishing to operate in the U.S.; to privatize the issuance of club station licenses; and to require applicants and licensees to supply a taxpayer identification number (TIN) and to file electronically. The FCC also plans to consolidate the application procedures for all Wireless Telecommunications Services into a single set of rules. All of these proposals are part of the FCC's efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System (ULS).

The new Form 605 would apply for Amateur Radio and other services "not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license." The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is trying to drastically cut down

part of the FCC's efforts to implement the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Universal Licensing System (ULS).

The new Form 605 would apply for Amateur Radio and other services "not presently required to submit extensive technical data to receive a license." The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is trying to drastically cut down the number of forms for the various services it administers, and to include all of its services under the ULS. The FCC last November began initial collection of licensee data to populate the ULS. Using the ULS, applicants and licensees will be able to file, modify, and renew electronically. Ultimately, the FCC intends to require all applicants, as appropriate, to file all applications and notifications electronically.

The FCC says it has tentatively concluded that there is "little or no need to continue issuing the reciprocal permit" (FCC Form 610-AL) for alien amateur licensees because the license from any foreign country with which the U.S. has a reciprocal agreement would "stand as the proof that the foreign operator is qualified for the reciprocal operating authority." Reciprocal operation under the new regime would be "by rule," which means no special action is necessary on the applicant's part, and the elimination of Form 610-A.

For club station licenses, the FCC proposes to accept the services of VEC-like organizations as volunteer club station call sign administrators. Prospective organizations would have to complete a pilot autogrant batch filing project before being authorized as call sign administrators.

Under the ULS, applicants or licensees would have to supply a TIN, usually a Social Security number, or "its functional equivalent." The FCC says this is "consistent with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996." To allay fears of misuse of TINs, the FCC says the ULS would be designed so that TINs will not be available to the public and "only a small number of Commission employees would have access to TIN information in conjunction with their work." The FCC says a Privacy Act submission would be published in the Federal Register "to obtain the requisite public and Congressional comment and Office of Management and Budget approval prior to implementation of the ULS."

A text version of the entire rulemaking proposal is at <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98025.txt> (or see the link from the FCC home page). The ARRL plans to file comments on the proposal, released 20 March. Comments are due to the FCC 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Reference WT Docket 98-20. The FCC will not accept e-mail comments of Docket WT 98-20.

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Tower law success: Chalk one up for Amateur Radio Jack Kelleher, W4CZ

Hams in Mason County, Washington, won't be encumbered by a telecommunications ordinance that would

have restricted the height of ham radio towers to 70 feet and imposed other regulations. Andrew Forsberg, WV7M, of Grapeview, reports that several Hms in the largely rural Western Washington county (population approximately 30,000) cited federal preemption over local regulation of Amateur Radio activities as well as the hobby's public service dimension to get the County Board of Commissioners to exclude Ham radio from the new law last month.

Forsberg says that, as originally drafted, not only would tower heights have been limited to 70 feet, but building-mounted towers could not have been more than 20 feet tall. It also would have held the height of vertical antennas (called "whips" in the proposed regulations) to 15 feet. In addition, the proposed law would have required landscaping to hide a tower and lot setbacks equal to a tower's height—something often impossible on a small residential lot.

Forsberg said that, at first, the drafters of the new ordinance "seemed to be unmoved by Amateur Radio considerations." In addition to federal preemption, the county hams pointed out the connection between a good antenna and ham radio's public service contributions—in an area subject to floods, earthquakes, power outages during winter storms, and even volcanic activity. Commissioners "began to soften their position" Forsberg said.

"By the time the vote was taken, the commissioners were well-informed of our position and were commending Amateur Radio for its outstanding contributions to the community," he said.

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Successful ARRL Petition to NTIA Jack Kelleher, W4CZ

The American Radio Relay League has successfully petitioned the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in hope of gaining that agency's support for a new Ham band at 160 to 190 kilohertz. The NTIA says that it has no objections to U.S. Amateur Radio operators being given access to this very low frequency band and will support its creation.

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Franklin Institute Remains on the Air

Thanks to the efforts of the Philmont Mobile Radio Club, the Franklin Institute station in Philadelphia will remain on the air. According to Club President Russ Stafford, W3CH, discussions have been taking place and the station will be available to visitors at the science museum.

The upper floor currently has the astronomy and Ham Radio display. Visitors from around the world have visited the station. Earlier reports had the station becoming an inactive exhibit. The most recent meetings with the

Institute officials indicate the station will remain an active exhibit.

Originally licensed in 1952 as W3TKQ, this continuously active exhibit has demonstrated to countless thousands of visitors, young and old, the exciting modes of radio communications available to licensed Amateur Radio operators.

Following its total renovation in 1991, the station was rededicated to its educational purpose by the late Mrs. Gioia Marconi Braga, the daughter of Guglielmo Marconi, "the father of radio."

A team of volunteers from the Club keep the station on the air during Museum hours. For further information on the station, you can check out W3AA's web site at <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>.

WB2FXN—Dayton's Ham of the Year ARRL Letter

"Excited, still numb, shocked," were the words Andrew J. Feldman, WB2FXN, used to describe his reaction to being named the Dayton Hamvention's 1998 Amateur of the Year. Feldman, of Coram, New York, is being recognized for his lifelong dedication to public service through his activities in ARES and RACES. Feldman has been active in public service since he was first licensed in 1962. He's served as Suffolk County (NY) ARES District Emergency Coordinator and as Suffolk County's American Red Cross chapter disaster communications chairman. Recently, he became Director of Communications for the New York Wing, Civil Air Patrol. He's also an active SKYWARN member. Feldman was in the forefront of Ham Radio support activity following the TWA Flight 800 disaster in July 1996, and during an outbreak of fires on Long Island in the summer of 1995.

The Technical Excellence Award winner is Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the "father of APRS." In making the announcement, the Hamvention called APRS "an internationally recognized achievement." Bruninga, who lives in Glen Burnie, MD, is being honored for creating and developing the Automotiv Packet Reporting System, which became available in 1993.

This year's Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award goes to ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director John B. Bellows Jr., K0QB, who said the award was completely unexpected. Bellows, of St. Paul, Minnesota, is being honored for his work promoting the limited federal preemption, PRB-1, which requires municipalities to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antenna requirements. In particular, Bellows gained exposure through his "pro bono" legal work in the *Pentel v. Mendota Heights, Minnesota*, case, which reaffirmed the original intent of PRB-1 and imposed an affirmative obligation on the city to accommodate Ham Radio with the "minimum necessary regulation to accomplish its legitimate purposes."

All three awards are made annually by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, which sponsors the Hamvention. They were presented 16 May at the Dayton Hamvention banquet.

North Carolina Hams make Skywarn Count ARRL Letter

Hams in North Carolina activated a Skywarn net 20 March to track severe storms that crossed the state and provided up-to-the-second reports to the National Weather Service. Early on the evening of 20 March, Hams reported several funnel clouds and tornado touchdowns across southern and eastern Wake County. Another tornado was spotted later near Raleigh-Durham Airport, and a funnel cloud was seen in Granville County.

Tornadoes caused considerable damage in Rockingham County and knocked out communication there. North Carolina Emergency Management called on Hams to bridge the gap by linking the county with the state Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh.

Ham gets Carnegie Medal John Wittman, WK8X, ARRL Letter

Elton Tworck, KC8BZD, of Wyoming, Michigan, has been honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Nearly 18 months ago, Tworck pulled two men from a car just moments before it was demolished by an oncoming train. Tworck was one of 17 people across the country similarly honored. He witnessed the car, piloted by a drunk driver, as it crashed into a barrier and landed on the tracks with a train bearing down on it. John Wittman, WK8X, of Grand Rapids, says the local sheriff hauled what was left of the car to Tworck's award ceremony. Tworck received a medal and a \$3,000 check, which will be applied toward his pursuit of an MA.

Gray Lady Sings Amateur Radio Praise Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

On March 5 *The New York Times* (the so-called "Gray Lady" of journalism) noted that Amateur Radio is "still thriving, still evolving, and still captivating," and said that "a new, digitally hip generation is sweeping into ham radio..." The article quotes Keith Baker, KB1SF, on how he uses Internet e-mail and amateur satellites to communicate in a sort of "Version 2.0" of Amateur Radio. Baker is executive vice president of AMSAT. The half-page article also quoted Dwayne Hendricks, WA8DZP, of Fremont, CA; Brad Thomas, KC1EX, *QST* Advertising Manager; and Geoffrey

Baehr, N6LXA, of Mountain View, California. ARRL Media Relations Assistant Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY, worked with John Verity, the author of the piece in developing his news sources. PR pros have long known the importance of getting favorable coverage by the Gray Lady. *The New York Times* is the "newspaper of record" for American journalism, so when a story appears there, it is automatically news for journalists all over America and followup stories are likely to appear.

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Radio and the *Titanic*
Alan Lovitch, WB2IXS

As the latest movie version of the *Titanic* disaster sweeps through the theaters, it is interesting to note that radio and radio operators played a major role, both positively and negatively. As you'll see, some of the radio exchanges were sadly similar to what we hear on the bands today!

As the events of the fateful evening unfolded, *Titanic* radio operator Harold Phillips received several ice warnings from ships at sea and duly posted them to the bridge. Then he came within range of Cape Race, Newfoundland (call sign MCE); and a heavy exchange of traffic followed with many social and business messages going in both directions. He ignored several more ice warnings, even telling one operator from the nearby *Californian*, "Shut up! I am working Cape Race. You are interfering." (Sound familiar?) The *Californian* operator switched his rig off in anger and went to bed. The *Titanic* (call sign MGY) received another ice warning when they were 25 miles from the iceberg that would sink them. Phillips acknowledged it but didn't post the warning to the bridge.

As the ship was sinking, the *Californian* stopped dead in an ice field within visual range of the *Titanic*. Her captain, Captain Lord, did not respond to the first rocket. After seeing several more he awoke the radio operator and asked him to establish contact with whatever vessel was firing the rockets. It was too late; by then the *Titanic* had lost its radio capability. The *Californian* tried a Morse lamp, but it was not acknowledged. Soon the rockets stopped.

For whatever reason, best left to historians to argue, the *Californian* did not go to the scene. Had the angry radio exchange not taken place, the *Californian's* operator may have remained at his post and confirmed the *Titanic's* dire circumstances. The next closest ship was the *Carpathia*. She received the calls from the *Titanic*, but couldn't reach the area until nearly daybreak.

After the incident, with the radio operators taking their share of the blame, Guglielmo Marconi was praised for his wireless technology since it was reasoned that by virtue of hearing the SOS at some distance, the *Carpathia* was able to respond to effect a rescue.

Despite the unfortunate incident between the radio operators aboard the *Titanic* and *Californian* that night, and despite the occasional problems we hear on our bands today, we can be justifiably proud of radio's rich history of service.

Whether professional or amateur, everyone involved in the emergency communication community should take pride in their accomplishments. May we continue to serve.

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The Norwegian Lady
Don Lynch, W4YZT

A century-old tragedy involving a Norwegian sailing ship and a seaside Virginia community has been memorialized since 1990 by The Norwegian Lady Amateur Radio Special Event. The event, part of a week-long festival of American-Norwegian friendship, commemorates the rescue of the crew of the SS *Dictator*, a sailing ship homeported in Moss, Norway, a small port city south of Oslo.

The *Dictator* was lost in a severe storm off the coast of Virginia Beach on Good Friday, March 27, 1891. While many crew members were saved by Virginia Beach residents who risked their lives braving the storm, five members of the crew, plus the wife and young son of the ship's captain, J. M. Jorgenson, drowned.

Several days after the storm, the ship's figurehead, a magnificent wooden carving of a woman carrying a staff, was washed ashore. For years the figurehead was displayed at the Virginia Beach oceanfront, where it became known as The Norwegian Lady. In 1953, the figurehead was damaged by Hurricane Barbara and was removed to a city garage for storage. Forgotten until the early '60s, it had deteriorated beyond repair. Only fragments of the original figurehead remain on display at the Old Coast Guard Station museum at 24th Street and Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach.

The *Dictator* tragedy drew the cities of Moss and Virginia Beach together, and the story of the tragedy and the rescue fascinated both communities. In the early '60s, Erik Bye, a well-known radio personality from the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation took an interest in the story. With his leadership, and that of Moss Mayor Emil Andersen, funds were raised from shipping and industrial companies for a new, permanent bronze memorial at Virginia Beach. Civic organizations from Moss also raised funds for an identical statue to be placed at Moss, and Norwegian sculptor Ornulf Bast was commissioned to create the works.

In 1962, identical bronze statues, replicas of the *Dictator's* figurehead, were dedicated in each city. The Virginia Beach Lady stands in a small park at the intersection of 25th Street and Atlantic Avenue, facing east, out to sea. The statue at Moss stands in a park at the harbor, also facing the ocean. At the base of each statue is the inscription: "I am the Norwegian Lady. I stand here to wish all men of the sea a safe return home."

Each year, a ceremony is held at 2 P.M. on the Saturday closest to March 27, honoring the lives lost in the tragedy and the friendship between the two cities. In Virginia Beach, the mayor lays a wreath at the base of the statue, and a Navy band plays the national anthems of Norway and the

United States. A similar ceremony is observed by the people of Moss

The Norwegian Lady Special Event

In the early 1980s, amateurs from the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club (VBARC) began The Norwegian Lady Special Event, a radio operation held on the weekend corresponding to the anniversary of the *Dictator's* rescue. Since 1990, the project has been coordinated by Charlie, WIWTG, and Ed, KN4KL, and has involved operation on all HF bands—SSB and CW—as well as on 2-meter FM using the club's WA4KXV repeater.

Stations confirming contact with the special event operators are rewarded with an attractive certificate. Interest in the event has grown over the years, and as of 1992, club members would often work 400 to 500 QSOs during each weekend.

Following the 1995 Norwegian Lady weekend, Don, W4ZYT, a member of VBARC and then president of the Virginia DX Century Club—the DX Club of Tidewater/Southeastern Virginia—suggested that the club consider expanding the event to include stations from the Moss area.

With the encouragement of the VBARC leadership, W4ZYT contacted Moss officials, who put him in contact with Roy, LA3FT, the secretary of the Norsk Radio Relae Liga av Moss, the local Moss Amateur Radio club. Shortly thereafter, W4ZYT received a phone call from Carl, NF5E, a petroleum executive now living in Colorado, who had spent many years in Norway. Carl was friends with many of the Moss hams and was able to put W4ZYT in contact with Kjell, LA9GJ, an active member of the Moss radio group, who would serve as the Moss liaison for the joint Norwegian Lady activities.

The weekend of March 23-24, 1996, was selected as the initial activity weekend, and members of both clubs began operations at 1400 UTC Saturday, March 23. The Norwegian hams used Moss club station LA5M, and the Virginia Beach hams operated using club call sign WA4TGF. Despite disappointing conditions, 685 QSOs were made by the official stations, with some 90 stations completing QSOs with both LA5M and WA4TGF.

Unfortunately, the club station at LA5M was undergoing antenna repairs, which limited operations on the higher HF bands; most of its contacts were with European stations on 75-meter SSB.

A certificate was awarded for a contact with either LA5M or WA4TGF, and a special endorsement was granted for contacts with both stations. Members of both clubs agreed that the initial effort had been worthwhile and vowed to refine the operation for the 1997 Norwegian Lady Event. Our joint

goal was to exceed 1000 contacts with hams in at least 50 countries.

In the summer of 1996, Kjell, LA9GJ, a major in the Royal Norwegian Air Force, visited Virginia Beach on business and brought with him several members of his family. Members of the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club hosted him at a potluck dinner, and in return were treated to a talk on Amateur Radio in Norway and on the Norwegian Lady operations from Moss. Also attending the meeting was Elsa, XE3VD, a Mexican ham from Progreso, Yucatán, who had learned of the Virginia Beach Club by working the 1995 Norwegian Lady Special Event.

One of the high moments of the evening was Kjell's reading of a message from Jon Klepzig, LA7IL, who had been a member of the Royal Norwegian Navy detachment that brought the Norwegian Lady statue from Moss to Virginia Beach in 1962. The following evening, Kjell, his family, Elsa, and Virginia Beach hams W4ZYT, KN4KL and N4AIG (now W4SD) met at the Norwegian Lady statue for pictures, and then went to dinner at a local restaurant. Friendships were cemented, and further plans were made for the 1997 Norwegian Lady Event.

A Successful International Special Event

The 1997 Norwegian Lady Special Event was scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23. The Moss club station, renovated and with a new HF antenna system, was primed and ready. The Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club was sporting its new club call sign, W4UG, formerly held by the late Gay Millus, a highly respected Virginia Beach ham leader and well-known Dxer.

At 1330 UTC, the first calls went out from both stations, and shortly thereafter, W4UG found LA5M at 14.280 Mhz, and old friends from Virginia Beach greeted old friends from Moss. A full 24 hours of multiband, multimode operations ensued. When the weekend activities were tallied, almost 1100 QSOs with hams in 53 DXCC countries had been achieved. Both clubs agreed that the International Norwegian Lady Event was a complete success.

Stations who worked W4UG or LA5M during the 1997 Norwegian Lady Weekend may claim an attractive 9 x 12-inch commemorative certificate by sending a QSL card and an SASE to VBARC (ATTN: Norwegian Lady), PO Box 62003, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. A special endorsement is available for operators who worked both club stations. QSLs received for LA5M will be forwarded to the club. Both clubs now plan to make the International Norwegian Lady event a regular fixture of their radio activities, and we hope to offer QSOs for this special DX event to interested hams worldwide.

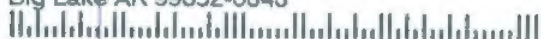
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ISN'T THIS ROMANTIC? ISN'T THAT THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT YOU EVER SAW?
UNGUYED, TOO?



I'VE BEEN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT
THIS --- BY THE TIME THIS TREE TAKES MY LONG-
WIRE UP 50 FEET, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CRAWL
TO THE MIKE!